

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 14265 021406Z

53

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

SCCT-01 SY-04 USSS-00 AID-05 FBO-02 A-01 OCE-00 CCO-00

OMB-01 OPR-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 NIC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 /092 W

----- 050142

O 021323Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2111

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 14265

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN ADDIS AREA

REFS: (A) ADDIS 14231; (B) USDAO 0759 DEC 74

1. AT THIS WRITING (1430 HOURS LOCAL DECEMBER 2), RADIO ETHIOPIA'S AMHARIC NEWSCAST 1400 HOURS LOCAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN THREE EXPLOSIONS IN ADDIS ABABA AREA: ONE AT BOLE AIRPORT (CF REFTTEL), ONE AT CITY HALL AND ONE AT THE WABE SHEBELLE HOTEL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 14265 021406Z

2. LATTER TWO EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED O/A 1220 HOURS LOCAL TODAY. WABE SHEBELLE EXPLOSION APPEARS TO HAVE HAD LIMITED EFFECT, BLOWING OUT WINDOWS. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY AMERICAN CASUALTIES. IN CONTRAST, EXPLOSION AT MUNICIPALITY WAS VERY POWERFUL. PRELIMINARY REPORTS SUGGEST SACHEL CHARGE WAS USED. IT DETONATED ON SECOND FLOOR (CF REF B). EYE WITNESSES REPORT THAT AT LEAST TWO MEN AND A WOMAN TYPIST WERE KILLED AND SEVEN PERSONS, INCLUDING THE VICE-MAYOR, WERE INJURED.

3. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED RPT UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF AN EXPLOSION, SAID TO HAVE CAUSED CASUALTIES, AT WONJI BUT KNOW NO DETAILS. THERE ALSO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS, WHICH WE ARE CHECKING, OF OTHER EXPLOSIONS VIZ., IN MERCATO AND IN GENERAL DIRECTION OF BOLE AIR-PORT; IT NOT RPT NOT CLEAR AT PRESENT WHETHER RADIO ETHIOPIA ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXPLOSION AT BOLE REFERS TO ONE OF THESE OR TO SATURDAY NIGHT'S (REFTEL).

4. RADIO ETHIOPIA ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO CALLS ON ALL ETHIOPIANS TO COOPERATE WITH SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND DIRECTS THEM TO CARRY ID CARDS. PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT DOCUMENTED ARE ALREADY BEING PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING.

5. THE EMBASSY IS PASSING THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTION TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY; QUOTE FOR THE TIME BEING, AMERICANS SHOULD AVOID CROWDS AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND EXERCISE CAUTION IN THEIR MOVEMENTS. IDENTITY CARDS SHOULD BE CARRIED. UNQUOTE.

6. THUS FAR, WE ARE AWARE OF TWO US-RELATED CASUALTIES (CF ADDIS 14238), USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEES SLIGHTLY WOUNDED BY FLYING GLASS.

7. "DIRG" SOURCE HAS TOLD OFFICIAL AMERICAN THAT "DIRG'S" ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE BOMBINGS ARE THE WORK OF ERITREAN INSURGENTS. "DIRG'S" ASSESSMENT, OF COURSE, COMES AS NO RPT NO SURPRISE AND IS WIDELY SHARED.

8. COMMENT: CONFIRMED EXPLOSIONS ARE TARGETED AT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS, VIZ., AIRPORT FACILITIES, RECENTLY NATIONALIZED WABE SHEBELLE HOTEL AND MUNICIPALITY. UNCONFIRMED EXPLOSIONS, IF SUBSEQUENTLY VERIFIED, MAY PROVE ALSO TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 14265 021406Z

RELATED TO GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS, VIZ., ABATTOIR FACILITY IN MERCATO, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY OWNED SUGAR PROCESSING FACILITY IN WONJI. EVIDENCE THUS FAR AVAILABLE THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT EPMG IS PRIME RPT PRIME TARGET OF DISCRIMINATING ATTACK.

9. BOMBINGS SUGGEST FURTHER THAT PERPETRATORS ARE PREPARED ACCEPT POSSIBILITY OF "DIRG" RETALIATION UPON THE DETAINEES AND THIS, TOO, POINTS IN DIRECTION OF ERITREAN COUNTERMOVE.

10. ALTHOUGH MUCH COULD OBVIOUSLY COME TO DEPEND ON EPMG REACTION TO THESE BOMBINGS AND BOMBERS' REACTION TO EPMG COUNTERMEASURES, WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT AMERICANS ARE TARGETS AT THIS TIME. BIGGEST POTENTIAL DANGERS WHICH WE SEE ARE (A) POSSIBILITY OF MOB ACTION AGAINST LOCAL ERITREANS, OF WHOM THERE ARE MANY; AND (B) INTEMPERATE "DIRG" RESPONSE, WHICH COULD CAUSE BOMBERS TO EXPAND THEIR TARGET LIST.

WYMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, AIRPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS14265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740348-0760
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741269/aaaachbg.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) ADDIS 14231; (B) USDAO 0759 DEC, 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN ADDIS AREA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005